

MEMO

TO: Energy and Environment Committee
FROM: Daniel Griset, Senior Planner, (213) 236-1895, griset@scag.ca.gov
DATE: September 4, 2003
SUBJECT: California Floodplain Management Report

Executive Director Approval: _____



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Energy and Environment Committee recommends that the Regional Council approve and send to the designated recipients the attached letter supporting the recommendations of the Report by the California Floodplain Management Task Force.

BACKGROUND:

One provision of AB 1147 called for the creation of a Floodplain Management Task Force that would provide the public with its study findings by the end of 2002. The Task Force was comprised of a diverse number of participants, including SCAG's Regional Council member and Water Policy Task Force member, Susan Lien Longville, San Bernardino Councilmember. Ms. Longville, along with Jonas Minton, Deputy Director of the Department of Water Resources, addressed the Task Force at its April 10, 2003 meeting to discuss the Report and its recommendations. Following some consideration of this item's draft support language on July 31, 2003, the EEC directed staff to bring this item back at its September meeting for action. Staff has incorporated certain suggestions by committee members as a way of refining the draft language of the proposed support letter.

The California Floodplain Management Task Force issued its Report in December 2002, following an extensive study and meeting process. The recommendations of the Task Force highlighted the need for better floodplain mapping. In particular, the report states that the effect of full build-out of the watershed should be considered. In addition, the report advocates multi-objective management approaches that integrate flood management with protection of natural resources, agriculture, residences, business, economic development, cultural resources, water quality, and water supply.

(The full report can be found on the Web at
<http://fpmtaskforce.water.ca.gov/forms/FPMTGReport121602.pdf>)

FISCAL IMPACT: SCAG's support of the recommendations of the California Floodplain Management Task Force will have no fiscal impact on SCAG. The staff expense related to work on these water issues is supported by funding from work element 03-190.

Docs #89151v1



MEMO

California Floodplain Management Report (continued)

PROPOSED LETTER FROM THE SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Governor Gray Davis
Members of the Legislature representing the SCAG region
Department of Water Resources

The Southern California Association of Governments appointed a member of our Regional Council, San Bernardino Councilmember Susan Lien Longville, to represent the interests of our region on the California Floodplain Management Task Force. The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations for better floodplain management in California.

On April 10th and June 12th, SCAG's Water Policy Task Force examined and discussed the 38 recommendations contained in the "California Floodplain Management Report" dated December 12, 2002. While the Floodplain Management Task Force has identified hazards requiring early public attention and action, SCAG urges (state leaders) to work cooperatively with local land use agencies and others to find acceptable approaches for refining, funding and implementing these recommendations.

It is important for the communities of this region that local land use planning and policy decisions protect lives and property in areas at risk for flooding. To assist with these kinds of improvement we call for state leadership on technical, mapping and other program assistance that will improve and support local decision making.

It is of additional concern that substantial future growth in the SCAG region may occur near and in the alluvial fan floodplains of Southern California. This creates additional urgency for developing the planning tools needed to counteract such flooding hazards as unpredictable, high-velocity debris flows.

SCAG urges the Legislature to ask the State Water Resources Control Board (as funds are available) to do a technical land use plan in alluvial fan areas. With broad stakeholder participation from local government, this plan should review the state of knowledge regarding alluvial fan floodplains, determine future research needs, and develop recommendations specific to alluvial fan floodplain management.

With these considerations in mind, the Regional Council of the Southern California Association supports the recommendations made by the California Floodplain Management Task Force and its Report of December 12, 2002 and urges the Department of Water Resources to identify funding for each of these recommendation.

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